



Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT: Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee

DATE: August 26, 2010

LOCATION: City Hall, 1st Floor Main Conference Room

FROM: Diane Meyer (Chair)

ATTENDEES: Diane Meyer (Chair), Richard Marx Jr, Stan Braude, Jeffrey Flotken, Susan Bude, Peter John Le Blanc, Pamela Fournier, Mike Pratt (Staff Liaison)

ABSENT: Punit Jain, Alex Bornstein, Andrea Maddox-Dallas (Aldermanic Representative) Daneen Schlereth (Recording Secretary)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: Minutes approved.

ART FAIR – GREEN CERTIFICATE PARTICIPANTS

Diane advised the committee only 2 vendors returned the survey – Café Manhattan and Rhearn Thai.

The rest of the committee was shocked on receiving only 2 responses. Mike advised the committee Daneen could make phone calls to the other vendors. Richard said he didn't believe it would be fair to the vendors who responded before the cut off date.

Stan suggested we give them both a certificate – Richard suggested we review both surveys before we make a decision.

Diane informed the committee she thinks maybe the restaurants are getting tired of these letters, and less and less are coming back.

Stan suggested we print a poster of the winner and hang it by our booth. The committee thought it was good idea.

Laura Miller from Cultural Festivals informed the committee on top of the \$200 cash prize they are also presented with a plaque.

Mike asked Laura if we missed the open forum with the vendors. Laura said it was on the 18th.

Laura suggested that maybe next year the committee sends the letter to the Art Fair Committee a head of time and they can help push the program. Laura also suggested she could have her committee send out a reminder email regarding this year's letter if the committee would like.

Pamela said there really isn't a point to email or call the other vendors; the cut off date has passed. It wouldn't be fair to the others.

Pamela informed the committee the whole purpose was to make the restaurants aware that we are looking for green practices and we are pleased that we have already seen several restaurants using green practices. Maybe that should be the message that is emailed to the vendors before the Art Fair.

Diane suggested we add the two names to the Sustainability Website for the next issue.

Laura asked if the committee decided on both of the vendors being winners, because the Art Fair only budgeted for one. Stan informed Laura our letter stated nothing about a cash prize, maybe you can split it. Laura said it would be impossible to split the plaque.

Diane suggested we have Daneen email the two surveys to the committee – review them and respond back to her with your opinion on the winner, and majority will be the winner. Laura agreed considering they have already advertised that the winner will receive a cash prize and a plaque.

Diane informed the committee the winner will be decided through email instead of a conference call and we will make sure it's in the minutes that it will be done by email.

Committee agreed.

Committee also agreed that the two vendors are both winners and should receive certificates, however there can only be one grand prize winner. Decision will be made by email.

Diane asked Laura if there was anything else the committee could do.

Laura suggested in the past they have provided the vendors with options, we make nothing mandatory, but suggest to use eco-friendly supplies. However maybe we could find some suggestions of places they can go to buy the supplies, we can put it in the initial mailing to them, strongly encouraging this and here is some of the places they can find recycled materials.

Pedro's Planet was suggested.

Mike asked when the initial mailing is sent out. Laura said in February.

Diane suggested we get in touch with Laura in January or early February of next year.

CITY'S SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE & ENVIRONMENTAL E-NEWSLETTER

Elizabeth advised the committee the City added a Sustainability page to its website. Elizabeth did inform the committee that the EEAC Committee will keep their page.

The main page for the website currently has the City getting their first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certified Building) certified building, which is Shaw Park Plaza at 1 N. Brentwood. The building is the first to become certified for Existing Building Operations and Maintenance.

The website also has information on composting and general information on green practices.

Elizabeth also informed the committee of the City's new Environmental E-Newsletter that everyone should have received already. Elizabeth advised the committee she emailed out the first edition to inform residents of the new website. However, if you wanted to continue to receive the newsletter you will need to sign up for it under the E-Communication page on the City's website.

Every issue will feature either a Clayton resident, business or organization that is going above and beyond its green services, along with general information and articles about green practices.

In the next newsletter there will be information on the new waste hauler and the composting service that is being offered, along with upcoming events.

Stan asked how it is decided on what business, resident or organization makes the newsletter.

Elizabeth said she has been getting nominations from the Mayor and the City Manager and was hoping to get nominations from the EEAC Committee. She said after she receives the nominations Elizabeth said she sets up an interview. The first two newsletters already have there nominations, in September its Buck Consultants and in October a nomination is being considered.

Elizabeth asked if anyone on the committee has any nominations, articles or topics to either email her or call her at (314) 290-8447 or sustainability@ci.clayton.mo.us .

Stan asked if it was possible to get a small article about the winners from the Art Fair. Elizabeth said absolutely.

Diane asked if we have any idea on how many hits we get on the city's website. Mike said he doesn't believe it's tracked, however Elizabeth said most of the questions asked are for the Center of Clayton.

Mike advised the committee the ACR is up and running for residents to send in their requests or complaints.

Pamela asked Mike to explain the ACR program again.

Mike informed the committee ACR (Active Citizens Request) is the program that the city has been using to keep track of the requests the city receives. It is an internet based program that is now on the city's website where a resident can enter information for various requests such as, waste misses, tree trimming, pot holes, street repair, or anything they need an answer for. After the request is entered it is sent to the appropriate department for a response. The City implemented this program back in April of this year and it's been a great program so far. Mike said eventually the residents will be able to enter their email address and when the request has been completed the resident will get an automatic email response.

Susan asked if there would be any articles about pesticides and would the articles in the newsletter pertain to that certain time of year. Elizabeth said yes most of the articles will be based on that time of season.

Elizabeth said there will also be an archive section for residents to look up any past articles.

Elizabeth informed the committee if anyone had any ideas for the webpage, now is the time to suggest them; the city is getting ready to revamp the entire web page.

Pamela asked if there would be information in the newsletter relating to the leaf pick up and the Christmas tree recycling, if not an article at the very least a link. Elizabeth said she can put it in the newsletter.

TRASH CONTRACT

Diane asked Mike if the City has decided on the new trash hauler and will they be picking up compostable materials. Mike informed the committee that Veolia Environmental will be taking over on October 1 and compostable materials will be picked up once a week along with the yard waste. The compostable materials that will be picked up will parallel with the ordinance that the committee amended for backyard composting. Mike said St. Louis County is watching closely and if we are successful they too might add compostable materials to their pick ups.

Diane asked if a list will be coming out. Mike said the contractor is required to provide brochures of the trash service, along with a list of the compostable and non-compostable materials that can be taken.

Pamela asked if there was going to be any changes regarding how they pick up.

Mike said the contractor has agreed to stay with the particular pick up days, however the times may change. Mike said the single biggest change is the compostable materials.

Mike informed the committee the city receives around 40 to 50 calls a week regarding the waste pickups, fortunately most of which are clarification calls, especially around holidays. If we can keep the calls to less than 200 the first month I think the transition will be successful.

Susan asked if the city contract covers both residential and business, and if it encourages business recycling.

Mike informed Susan the contract covers residential only, the City does encourage recycling but as far as business recycling it would be between the business and their trash contractor.

Susan asked why the waste haulers don't encourage recycling compostable materials.

Mike said if a hauler takes yardwaste they can take compostable materials, however the single biggest reason you don't hear much about compostable materials is the food scrap issue. Mike informed the committee if meat and egg products are mixed in the compostable materials it will violate the contractor's state permit. We eliminated the wording "food scraps" and are using "compostable materials" to not confuse anyone about what can be taken and what can not.

Diane asked is there any other way to get the list to the residents. Mike said we will have it on the website, it will be in Elizabeth's E-Newsletter, and each resident will get an individual letter.

Jeffrey asked in January, February or March if the resident doesn't have yardwaste will they still pick up compostable materials and can we put them in our yardwaste bags.

Mike said absolutely.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike advised the committee the City has a Green Committee and asked Elizabeth to share what took place in their meeting earlier that day. Elizabeth said they discussed a policy documenting all of the City's internal operations that are green related. The committee is looking to compile everything in one document to make it easier to find.

Pamela asked if Mike or Elizabeth was the liaison for the Green Committee and if one of the members from the EEAC Committee should attend the Green Committee meetings also.

Elizabeth said she could send an invitation, the meetings are held every other month, the fourth Thursday at 10AM. Mike said it's the same day as the EEAC meetings. Elizabeth informed the committee the next meeting is October 23rd.

Pamela informed the committee she attended a lecturer this week and someone from the Conservation District said that lawns are only a tad less efficient than concrete as far as water absorption. She said that soil tends to compact and the little stubby grass does not absorb very much with a big rain.

Pamela said the only reason she brought this information up to the committee was because the City has a lot of lawns that may be replaced with something more accommodating. Pamela said they didn't inform the class on what was more accommodating, however she said it might be something we may want to talk about or investigate further considering we never really talked about or have focused on water resource. Pam said she knows the city is doing its part with building permits which include the ratio of hard surface to permeable surfaces.

Mike informed the committee that someone from the Parks Department will be able to attend the next meeting to discuss rain gardens further.

Mike asked if anyone had any ideas for the budget; please make sure you bring it to the next meeting. We need to make a decision before the end of September.

Jeffrey suggested the sign for the park area referencing the City's green practices.

Pamela suggested recycling containers for Central Business District that doesn't have moving parts. Mike said the city cans runs about \$800.

Diane asked if the city needs more benches or bike racks anywhere.

Pamela suggested the dog bag poles.

Mike said the bike rack idea was a good idea; he would talk with Gary further about them.

MEETING AJOURNED: at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 5:00pm at Clayton City Hall.

cc: Lenore Toser-Aldaz, Deputy City Manager
Mike Pratt, Director of Public Works
June Waters, City Clerk
Judy Kekich, Economic Outreach Coordinator